

**SPECIAL MEETING
BOARD OF MAYOR AND ALDERMEN
(PUBLIC PARTICIPATION)**

May 17, 2005

7:00 PM

Mayor Baines called the meeting to order.

The Clerk called the roll.

Present: Aldermen Roy, Gatsas, Guinta, Sysyn, Osborne, Porter, O'Neil,
Lopez, Shea, DeVries, Garrity, Smith, Thibault and Forest

Mayor Baines advised that the purpose of the special meeting is to give residents of Manchester the opportunity to address the Board on items of concern affecting the community; that each person will be given only one opportunity to speak; that comments shall be limited to two minutes to allow all participants the opportunity to speak and any comments must be directed to the Chair.

Mayor Baines requested that any resident wishing to speak come forward to the nearest microphone, clearly state their name and address when recognized, and give their comments.

Harold Levine, 49 Hillcroft Road, Manchester stated:

My mother taught me growing up that the rich get richer and the poor have children.

Bob Barry, 51 W. Elmwood Avenue, Manchester stated:

I would like to make the comment that since 2002 spending in Manchester has increased approximately 23% when the consumer price index has increased approximately 7%. How can a 23% increase be justified when inflation has only gone up 7%? Since many of, particularly in my age bracket, are on fixed incomes and we are only increasing at the rate that Social Security allows us to, many of us have had to make very hard choices as to what to buy and how little to spend. The City apparently doesn't care. Frankly we are being priced out of Manchester with spending increases at more than three times the rate of inflation.

Tammy Simmons, 142 Parker Street, Manchester stated:

I came tonight because I am truly, truly concerned about the tax increases that are being proposed in the City. We moved to Manchester so that we could live in an affordable community and in the past three plus years my taxes have gone up significantly and with this new proposed tax increase we are looking at a 20% jump from where we were four years ago to now. I know in my life as a business person I can't possibly raise my prices 20% over four years and I don't understand why it is that the City can't work within its means rather

than just continuing to put it on the backs of the homeowners. I would just like everybody here to really seriously consider looking at alternatives and what we can do to not have tax increases because unfortunately people like myself who are just average middle class working class people, can't afford to keep living in Manchester. We have to move to other communities.

Doug Kruse, 295 Trolley Street, Manchester stated:

I came here tonight to make two quick points regarding the budget discussion this evening. First I wanted to put to rest the rumor that has kind of been going around town. I have been hearing from a lot of people that there is some sort of a secret deal between the Board of School Committee and the City whereby we are going to give back \$1 million in surplus funds in exchange for a \$142.2 million allocation for FY06. I am gathering that there are a number of Aldermen here this evening who when considering the school budget number are going to be factoring in getting \$1 million back in surplus this year. I wanted to clarify tonight that the Manchester Board of School Committee has not, and I will repeat has not, agreed to any such deal. There may be one or two members of the School Board who agreed to those terms but I will remind folks this evening that those individual School Board members do not have the authority to either speak for or act on behalf of the full Board so I wouldn't count your chickens before those eggs hatch. The second thing that I wanted to say tonight...I just wanted to urge the members of this Board to follow the lead of Alderman Guinta and give due and thoughtful consideration to crafting a budget this evening that will not only meet the important needs of our City and schools but that will also offer much needed tax relief for the hard working families and our retired folks. Thank you very much.

Walter Stiles, 226 Sagamore Street, Manchester stated:

There are a couple of things that I would like to speak about tonight as far as the City is concerned. I am concerned about some of the buildings that we have in this City that need restoration and aren't getting it. For example, you probably saw in the paper where there is a group of us working on the restoration of the Weston Tower. Now that was given to the City of Manchester many years ago by Mayor Weston and he also was a governor in the State of NH too. Not only the Weston Tower, but also the Weston Fire Station. Now I think that place should be preserved. It is boarded up and disintegrating daily. It is over 100 years old and that should be taken care of. I have been trying to get it made into a fireman's museum. I know a lot of the firemen are very keen on the idea and they would like to see this done but nothing has been done and I know I have been inside of it and it is a disaster and should be restored. There is also another monument in the City down in Veteran's Park. That is the Civil War Monument. That monument has disintegrated in several ways. Most of you have been down there and you have seen it. That needs work as well. The final one and this is not restoration but the Ash Street School I understand they are thinking of selling and moving out and so on and so forth but that Ash Street School is a gem as far as the City is concerned and that building whether you use it for the School Department or whatever should be landscaped and fixed up the way it really should be done. I have lived in this City

82 years and I hope to live another couple anyway. I would like to see some of these things accomplished in the next few years.

There being no one else present wishing to speak, on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne it was voted to take all comments under advisement and receive and file any written documentation presented.

This being a special meeting of the Board, no further business was presented and on motion of Alderman Smith, duly seconded by Alderman Osborne it was voted to adjourn.

A True Record. Attest.

City Clerk